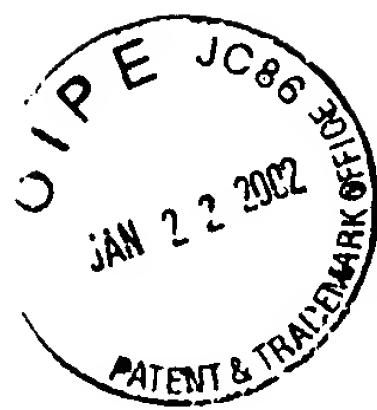


# 4/A  
AQ  
6/19/02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Applicant: D. Shah et al.

Serial No.: 09/891,983

Filed: June 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR THE  
SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV  
ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES

Case No.: 6821.US.01

Examiner: unknown

Group Art Unit: unknown

I hereby certify that this paper  
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*Kimberly A. Iorio*  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for  
Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please preliminarily amend the  
subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 22, line 6 - page 24, line 7, with  
the following:

A1  
A plasmid containing nucleotides 14-5294 of the H  
strain of HCV (N. Ogata, H. Alter, R. Miller, and R.  
Purcell, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:3392-3396 (1991)) in  
pGEM-9Zf(-) (Promega Corp., Madison, WI) was partially  
digested using DNase I by the following method in order to  
obtain random epitope-encoding fragments. Five µg aliquots  
of plasmid DNA were incubated at 15°C for 10 minutes in 0.5  
M Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 10 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of anywhere

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